



Fact Sheet

Proposed Interim Cleanup Action

University of Washington Shaub-Ellison Parcel

Proposed Interim Cleanup of Petroleum Contamination

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) proposes to approve an interim cleanup of petroleum contamination at the Shaub-Ellison parcel located on the University of Washington's (UW's) Tacoma Campus.

Ecology invites the public to read and comment on this proposed interim cleanup action plan and SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (see page 2, Environmental Review). After reviewing public comment, Ecology will make a final decision on this proposed interim cleanup action.

The *Draft Interim Cleanup Action Plan, Shaub-Ellison Parcel Brownfields Cleanup* describes proposed cleanup actions at the Shaub-Ellison parcel. These proposed cleanup actions will be part of meeting state corrective action requirements under the Hazardous Waste Management Act, RCW 70.105 (HWMA) and the facility's existing interim status under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Public Comment Period November 14, 2005 – December 14, 2005

The *Draft Interim Cleanup Action Plan, Shaub-Ellison Brownfields Cleanup* and Ecology's SEPA Determination of Non-Significance and SEPA checklist are available at the circulation desk of the UW Tacoma Library on the UW Tacoma campus located at 1902 Commerce Street (phone: (253) 692-4440).

Library hours are:

Monday – Thursday	8 am – 10 pm
Friday	8 am – 5 pm
Saturday	9 am – 5 pm
Sunday	10 am – 5 pm

Or by appointment, Monday through Friday 9 am to 4:30 pm at:

Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, Washington
Phone: (360) 407-6365

To receive a copy of Ecology's SEPA Determination of Non-Significance, contact Leon Wilhelm at (360) 407-6362 or leow461@ecy.wa.gov

Comments must be postmarked or received by close of business December 14, 2005. You may personally deliver comments to the Ecology address shown above.

Mail your comments to:

Leon Wilhelm
Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction
Department of Ecology, PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Email Address: leow461@ecy.wa.gov

Overview

The University of Washington's Tacoma Campus (UWT) currently occupies about 35 acres within Tacoma Washington's Union Station National Historic District. UWT opened with 176 students in 1990 and has over 2,200 students today.

The Shaub-Ellison Parcel is located within the UWT campus along Pacific Avenue across from the Washington State History Museum at 1902 Pacific Avenue. It was formerly occupied by four underground storage tanks, a vehicle hoist, lube pit and floor drain, and a tire store. It is now the location of the Pacific Gateway Plaza entrance to the UWT campus (see Figure 1). The Pacific Gateway Plaza entrance is made up of wide concrete steps and landings with landscaping on both sides of the concrete.

See attached Figure 1 Shaub-Ellison parcel

Petroleum remains in the soil and groundwater at various locations underlying the Shaub-Ellison parcel as shown in Figure 1. These petroleum levels are higher than allowed under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA).

The proposed actions to clean up petroleum in the soil and groundwater will result in minimal disturbances in the Gateway Plaza and otherwise are not expected to impact students or the nearby community.

All hazardous substance investigations and cleanups within the main area of the UW Tacoma Campus are being conducted according to Model Toxics Control Act Agreed Order No. DE 97HW-S238. The Agreed Order went into effect in October 1997. The proposed interim cleanup action for the Shaub-Ellison parcel was developed and will be conducted with Ecology oversight as required by the Agreed Order. Funding of the proposed cleanup, including preparation of the *Draft Interim Cleanup Action Plan, Shaub-Ellison Parcel Brownfields Cleanup*, and related documents, is partially provided under an EPA Brownfields cleanup grant according to Cooperative Agreement BF-97093801. Funding under the grant is limited to addressing petroleum contamination only.

Ecology's procedures for reaching a final decision

The public is invited to read and comment on this proposed interim cleanup action. Ecology considers all public comments before making final decisions.

The public review process regulatory requirements under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) are found in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-340-600.

Responding to comments and testimony

Ecology will consider and respond to written comments submitted by the public.

Final decision

After considering the comments Ecology will make a final decision or make a new tentative decision on this proposed interim cleanup action. Ecology will subsequently approve the proposed interim cleanup action, modified as necessary by public comment.

Substantial changes to the proposed interim cleanup actions will require an additional public comment period under MTCA.

Effective date of decision

The effective date of Ecology's decision will be the date on Ecology's letter approving the proposed interim cleanup action.

Environmental Review

Ecology is the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) lead agency for this interim cleanup.

After evaluating relevant information, Ecology has determined that this proposed interim cleanup action will not have a significant adverse environmental impact and has issued a determination of non-significance (DNS). The SEPA DNS and SEPA checklist are included with the *Draft Interim Cleanup Action Plan, Shaub-Ellison Parcel Brownfields Cleanup* issued for public comment.

For more information, contact Leon Wilhelm at (360) 407-6362

History and Past Releases of Hazardous Substances

The Shaub Ellison Parcel was the former location of four underground storage tanks (USTs), a vehicle hoist and lube pit with a floor drain and a tire manufacturing, sales and installation store. After purchasing and demolishing the tire store in the early 1990s, the UW discovered petroleum soil and groundwater at the site.

The four USTs and some of the petroleum contaminated soil were removed by the UW in several phases between 1994 and 1996. Subsequently, a site investigation of the Shaub-Ellison parcel was conducted by the UW in 1998 under the Agreed Order. Results of this investigation showed that soil several feet below the ground at the locations shown in Figure 1 is still contaminated with petroleum at levels above MTCA cleanup levels based on risk to human health. The underlying groundwater is also contaminated with levels of petroleum above MTCA cleanup levels. This remaining petroleum contamination in soils and groundwater is most likely the result of past releases of petroleum from the USTs, lube pit and floor drain before the University acquired the parcel.

Proposed Interim Cleanup Action

This proposed interim cleanup action will use bioventing to treat petroleum-contaminated soils, and in-situ aerobic treatment and monitored natural attenuation to treat petroleum-contaminated groundwater. The University will also take various other measures to ensure that UWT employees, contractors and the public will not be exposed to residual petroleum contamination in soil or groundwater.

What Happens Next

After considering the comments received, Ecology will make a final decision on the proposed interim cleanup action, changed as necessary by public comment.

Department of Ecology
HWTR
PO Box 47600
Olympia WA 98504-7600

PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTED

We used several mailing lists. If you receive a duplicate, please pass it on

